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SSC - 245

Sentence Fragments

Overview: A sentence fragment is any group of words that do not form a complete sentence. It is important to avoid fragments not only because they are grammatical errors, but also because they interfere with your reader's ability to understand your writing. In order to maintain clarity and cohesion, ensure that all sentences are complete and learn to avoid sentence fragments. This handout will cover some of the more common causes of sentence fragments.

Sentence fragments can be inadvertently created by leaving out a subject, a verb, or by trying to make a dependent clause stand alone.   corrected by connecting them to another nearby sentence or by dding the missing subject or verb.

Example 1:
Sentence f. Example 2:

Sentence fragment: I wrote my paper. **At my desk**.
This fragment, which has no subject or verb, can be corrected by connecting the fragment to the previous sentence, which already has a subject, a verb, and expresses a complete thought. "At my desk" provides some nice detail, but does not form an independent clause.
Revised version: I wrote my paper **at my desk.**

Hanging dependent clauses are another common type of sentence fragment. Because dependent clauses act as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns, they cannot stand alone as sentences. To fix this type of fragment, attach the dependent clause to the independent clause it modifies. The dependent clause can be added either before or after the independent clause.

Example 1:
Sentence fragment: There are still grammatical errors. **Even though I proofread my paper**.

The subordinating conjunction "even though" creates a dependent clause which cannot stand alone. To